

Third Edition

2012

The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County

Milwaukee County Department on Aging
Demographic Report

Executive Summary



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Introduction

The older population in the United States continues to grow. The 65 years and over population has increased from 35 million in 2000 to 40 million in 2010 and is projected to reach 55 million in 2020— a 36% increase in this decade.

Milwaukee County is no different. The following is a summary of *The Face of Aging in Milwaukee County*. This report takes a comprehensive look at the many determinants of health and wellbeing, describes the demographic makeup of the current aging community and describes the outcomes this community is currently experiencing. The report uses a framework that will help the user answer two important questions.

1. What is the state of our aging community?
2. How well is our infrastructure and organizational capacity prepared to meet the needs of our changing community?

Understanding the answers to these two questions can allow our community to be responsive to the needs of seniors and provide the best environment for our citizens to experience life's transitions.

The report utilizes secondary data, mainly the US Census, to describe the state of aging in Milwaukee County. This executive summary identifies a number of key trends or changes that have taken place over the past decade. This summary and the full report are meant to be a sourcebook for the reader to consider their response to the second question from their unique place in the community.

The State of Our Aging Community

Milwaukee County older adults remain 16% of the total population of Milwaukee County. Older adults ages 60 years and over have remained steady at 16% of the total population of Milwaukee County since the 2000 Census.

It is projected that the Milwaukee County older adult population will slightly increase over the next 30 years despite projections that the total population of Milwaukee County will decrease. The US Census Bureau projects that the total Milwaukee County population will decrease from 929,208 people in 2010 to 863,208 people in 2035. In contrast the older adult population is expected to increase from 152,982 people in 2010 to 215,979 people in 2035.

The largest percent change in Milwaukee County population was shared across the 55-59 and 60-64 age categories both of which experienced more than 40% increase from 2000 to 2010. Milwaukee County's 55-59 population increased 49% from 2000 to 2010. This increase is generally considered to be driven by the fact that the "baby boomer" generation (those born between 1946 – 1964) will be crossing into older adult categories during this next decade.

African American and Hispanic/Latino older adults continue to drive the slight overall increase in older adults over the past three decades as White older adults continue to decrease in Milwaukee County. The Hispanic/Latino older adult community grew over 40% since 2000 and the African American older adult community grew at a slightly lower rate of 27%.

Older adults in Milwaukee County are more educated and make more money than their counterparts did ten years ago. Over the past decade, older adults in

Milwaukee County have had higher completion rates of high school (or equivalent) through graduate and professional degrees.

Financial wellbeing has also improved. Between 2000 and 2010, there were fewer households in every household income category under \$50,000 and an increase in every category above \$50,000.

Everyone has not equally benefited from past economic growth. Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino populations each have larger percentages of their communities with annual household incomes of \$20,000 or less. And although both groups have experienced a slight reduction in the number of people living in poverty in the past decade, they experience poverty at a rate nearly three times that of their White counterparts.

Milwaukee County older adults live alone at a higher rate than the rest of the state of Wisconsin. Both Milwaukee County older men and women live alone at a higher rate than their counterparts in Wisconsin, with women living alone at a higher rate than men. Since 1990, the percentage of married men and women in Milwaukee County has generally decreased and the percentage of older widowed, divorced/separated and single (never married) older adults has increased.

More than 75% of Milwaukee County older adults report their general health status as feeling good or very good. Eighty percent of local older adults report that they expect their quality of life to stay the same or get even better over the next 5 to 10 years—five percentage points higher than the national average.

Milwaukee County older adults die at a slightly higher rate than their Wisconsin counterparts. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for Milwaukee County older adults, followed by cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases and stroke.

Are We Prepared?

As the face of Milwaukee's older adults changes it is important to ask this question. The answers may be different for each reader, depending on their role or stake in creating a positive environment for our older adults. Regardless of one's role, the new face of aging for Milwaukee County has implications which lead to further questions.

The aging baby boom bubble. Milwaukee County has begun to experience the first baby boomers crossing over into older adulthood, with many to follow. While this is a growing group in Milwaukee County, it is projected that the overall county population will decrease in the next 30 years.

How long will the baby boomers work? Will they be financially able to retire at age 65? If they need to work longer, what types of jobs will be available for them? If they retire early or at age 65, how will this affect the tax base from which many of the programs serving older adults receive funding?

A growing diverse community. The Hispanic/Latino older adult community grew over 40% since 2000 and the African American older adult community grew at a slighter lower rate of 27%.

Are the older adult serving organizations and programs prepared to serve a more diverse community? How prepared are staff to communicate in the language of the communities they serve, particularly for the growing Hispanic/Latino community? How prepared are programs to take advantage of the cultural richness, beliefs and values that the communities they serve bring with them? How prepared is the workforce? Does the workforce and boards of directors of older adult organizations reflect the communities in which they are and will be serving?

Longer, larger, sicker. With the advancement of health care and public health, people are living longer. Reports from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services indicate that since 1990, the obesity rate for adults has more than doubled—nearly 27% of adults are obese and about 65% are overweight or obese. Obesity in adults is associated with many chronic diseases and poor health outcomes. Obesity is a risk factor for type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, asthma, arthritis, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, and depression. Many of these health outcomes directly contribute to the top causes of death for Milwaukee County’s older adults and to a growing rate of Alzheimer’s Disease.

With a growing older adult population in terms of numbers and waistlines, uncovered health and long-term care expenses leave everyone fiscally vulnerable—particularly older adults. What can be done? What

programs are prepared to address the growing health needs of the older adult community? How accessible are healthy food options for older adults? How healthy are the food programs for older adults? What type of physical activities exist for older adults? Are current policies and programs responsive to the growing need for health care and long-term care? Again, is our workforce prepared for the growing population and trained to deal with the various health concerns and co-morbidities that exist and will increase?

The simple question of “are we prepared?” is not so simple to answer. It is the hope of the Milwaukee County Department of Aging that this sourcebook of data will help your organization continue this important dialogue and prepare you to respond to the needs of older adults in our community.

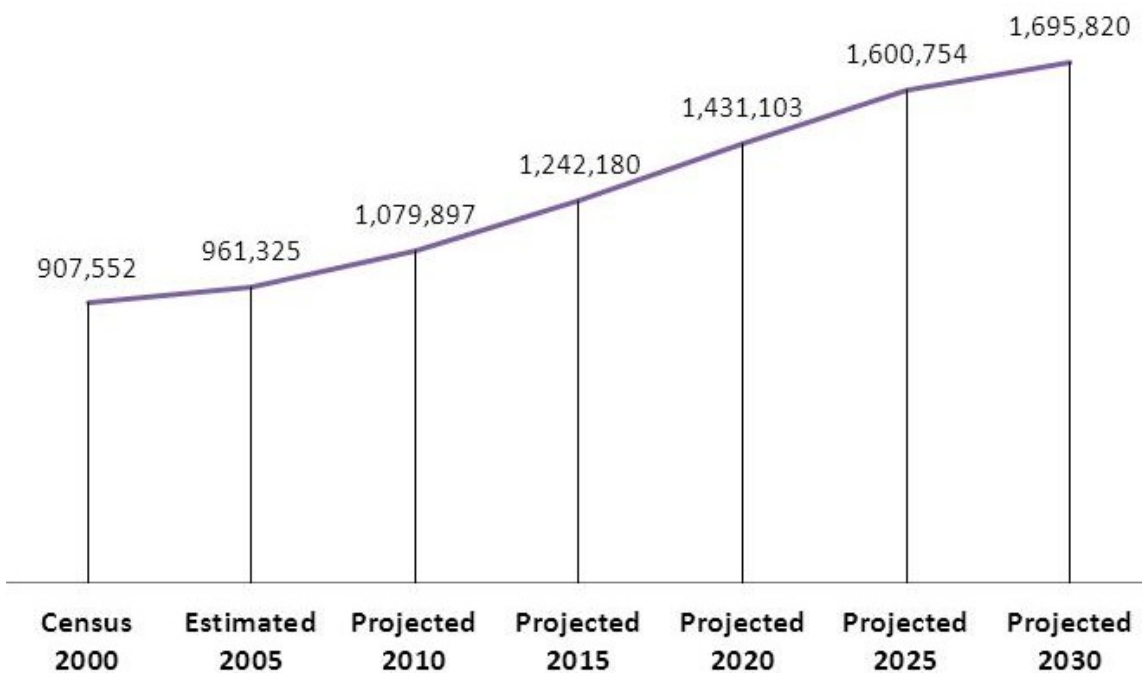


Demographic Overview

Figure 1

Wisconsin Population Projection (2000-2030) for Ages 60+

Wisconsin Dept. of Administration



Growth

Overall trend shows that Wisconsinites 60 and over will nearly double in population within 30 years.

Milwaukee County residents 60 and over will steadily increase over the same period but at a slightly slower rate.

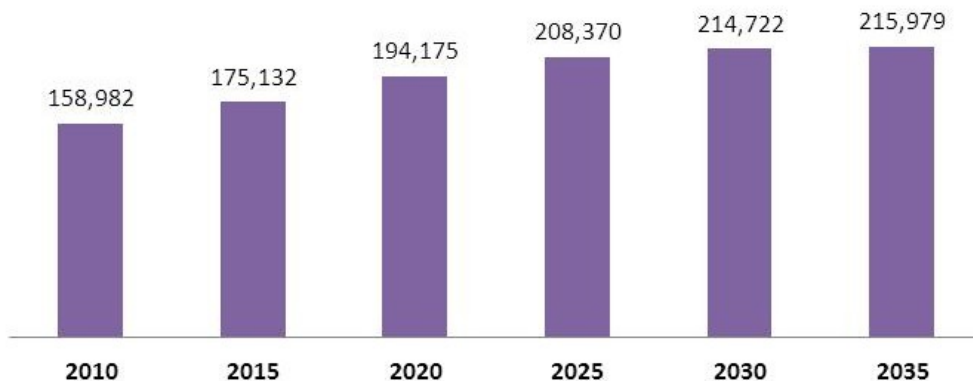
Growth

Overall trends show that Milwaukee County residents ages 60+ are growing in number and will steadily increase, but not uniformly across the various age categories.

Figure 2

Milwaukee County Population Projection (2010-2035) for Ages 60+

US Census



Provided by AARP State Research 2012

Growth

The near aging and aging populations between 50 and 64 years old experienced the largest increase in growth among all age groups in Milwaukee County.

Figure 3

Milwaukee County Population Change by Age Category 2000 to 2010

US Census

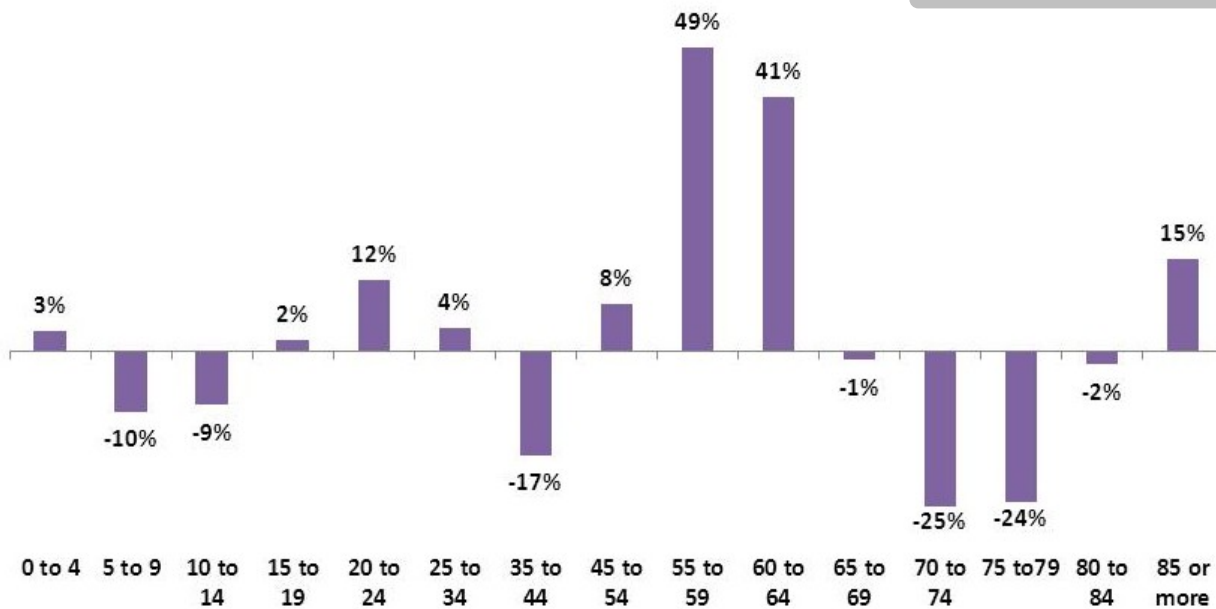
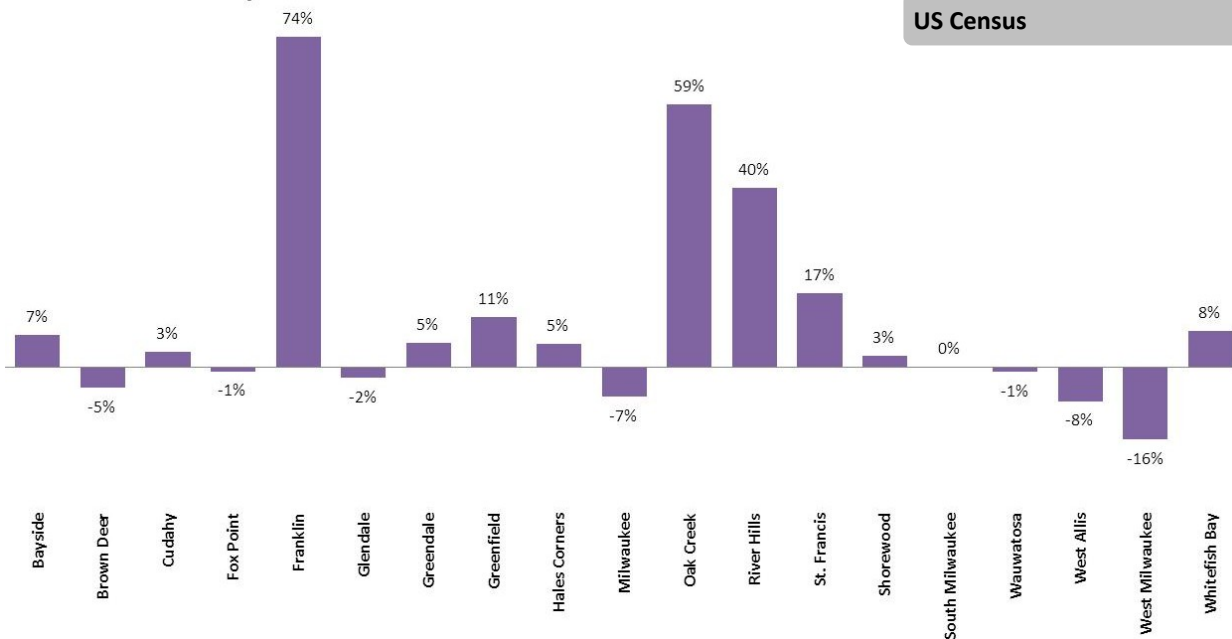


Figure 4

Percent Change of Older Adult Population Ages 60+ Milwaukee County 2000-2010



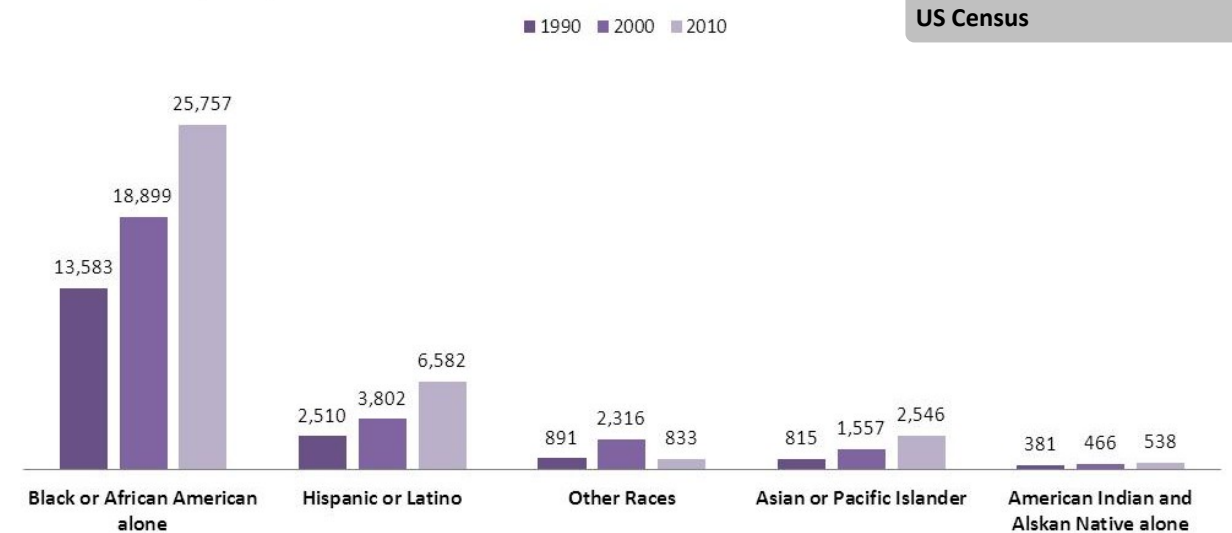
Provided by AARP State Research 2012

Growth

The City of Milwaukee remains the municipality with most seniors ages 60 and over, but a few of the surrounding municipalities have experienced a high percentage of change relative to their total population.

Figure 5

Comparison of Milwaukee County Minority Population Age 60+ by Race/Ethnicity 1990, 2000, 2010



Provided by AARP State Research 2012

Growth

The African American community continues to be the largest racial/ethnic minority group and have the most significant growth among minority populations ages 60 and over.



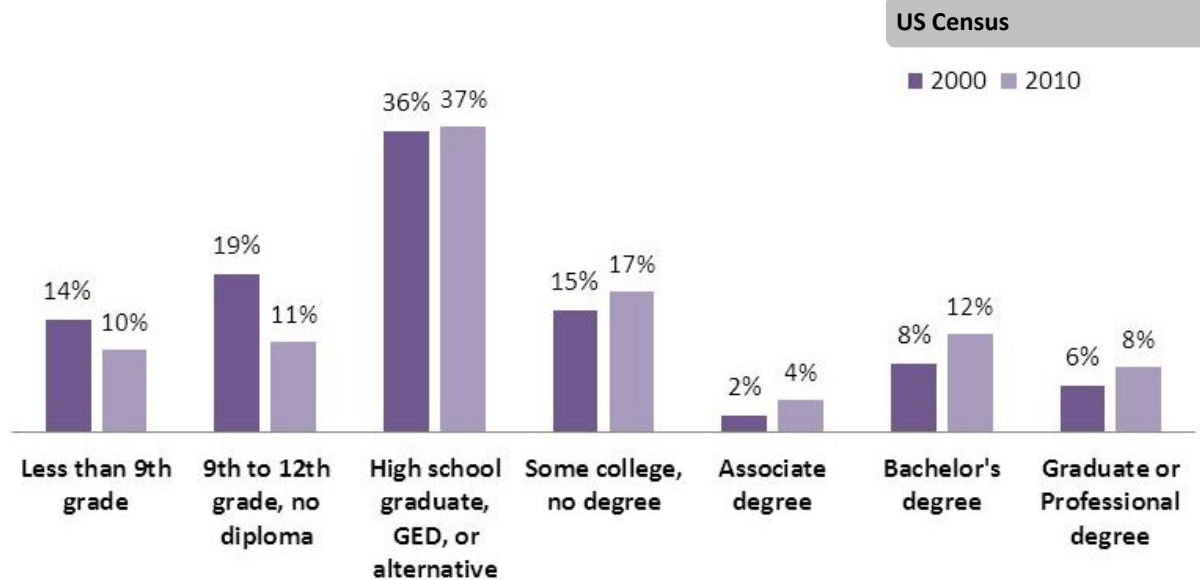
Education Overview

Education

Over the past decade the education levels of older adults have been increasing across categories from high school or equivalent through graduate and professional degrees.

Figure 6

Educational Attainment of Persons Age 65+ in Milwaukee County 2000, 2010



Economic Status

Income

Between 2000 and 2010, there were fewer households in every household income category under \$50,000 and an increase in every category above \$50,000.

Figure 7

Level of Household Income for Householders 65+ Milwaukee County 2000, 2010

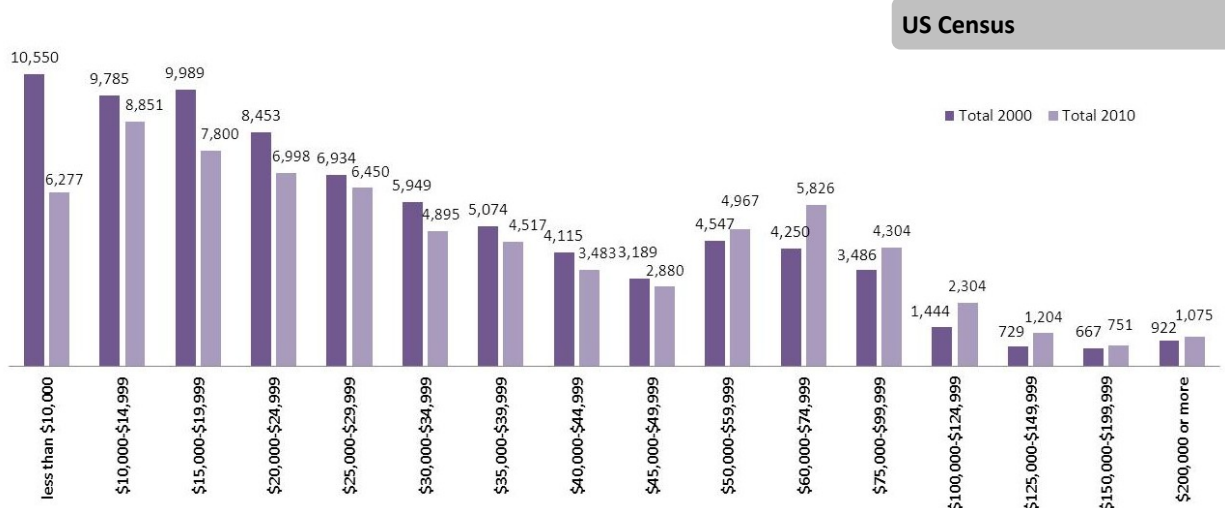
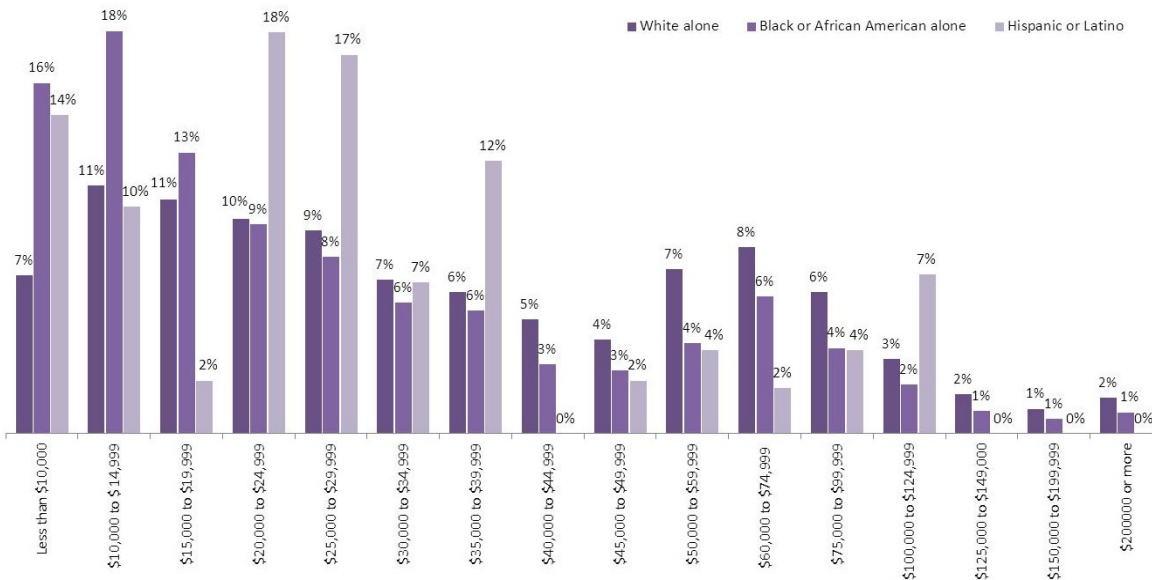


Figure 8

Household Income in 2010 for Households of Persons 65+ by Largest Race / Ethnicity Milwaukee County

American Community Survey



Income

This chart shows household income for persons 65 and over and the distribution of persons within their race or ethnicity.

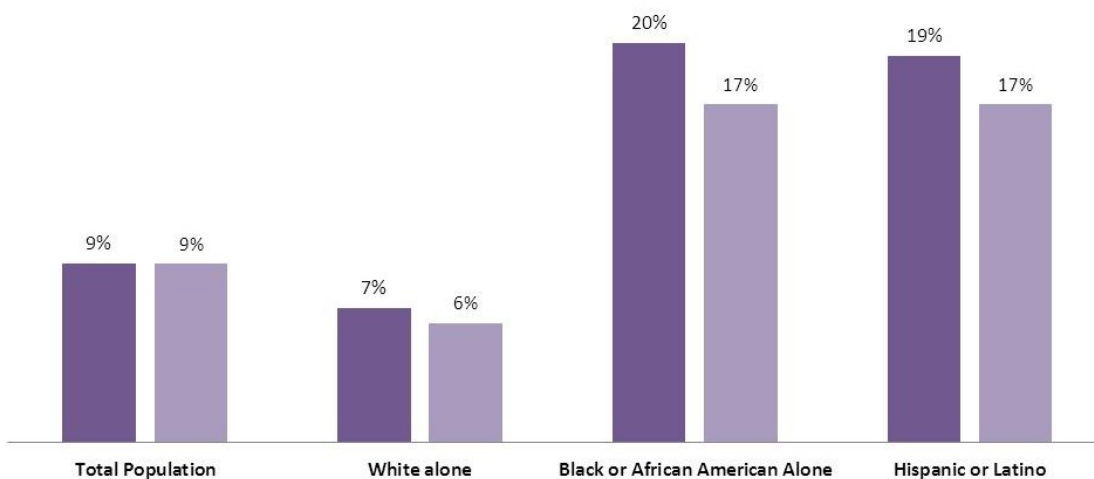
Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino groups each have larger percentages of their communities with annual household incomes of \$20,000 or less.

Figure 9

Percentage of Population 65+ Living in Poverty Milwaukee County 2000, 2010

2000 2010

US Census



Poverty

In Milwaukee County, the poverty rate for seniors 65 and over has remained steady at 9%.

Each of the largest racial/ethnic groups in Milwaukee County have experienced a slight reduction in the number of people living in poverty between 2000 and 2010.



Independence

Living Alone

Milwaukee County has a higher percentage of persons 65 and older living alone than in Wisconsin as a whole. Women live alone at a higher rate than men.

Figure 10

Percent of Persons 65+ Living Alone by Gender State and Milwaukee, 2010



Figure 11

Comparison of Older Adults Marital Status 1990, 2000 and 2010

Provided by AARP State Research 2012



Since 1990, the percentage of older married men and women in Milwaukee County has decreased and the percentage of older widowed and divorced/separated women has increased.



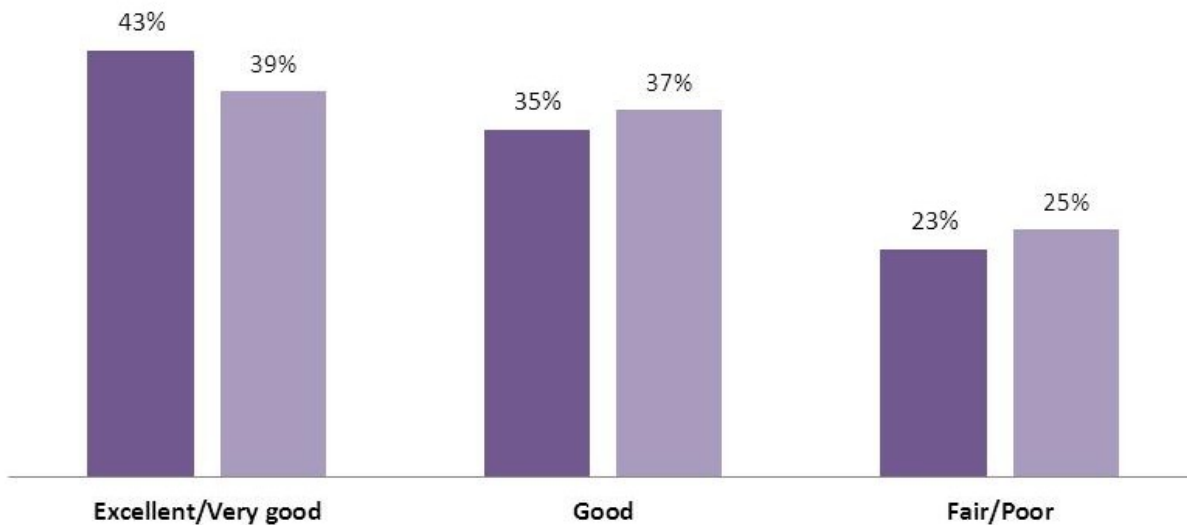
Health Status

Figure 12

Self Reported General Health Status of Persons 65+ in Milwaukee County 2010

■ Wisconsin ■ Milwaukee

CDC, BRFSS



General Health

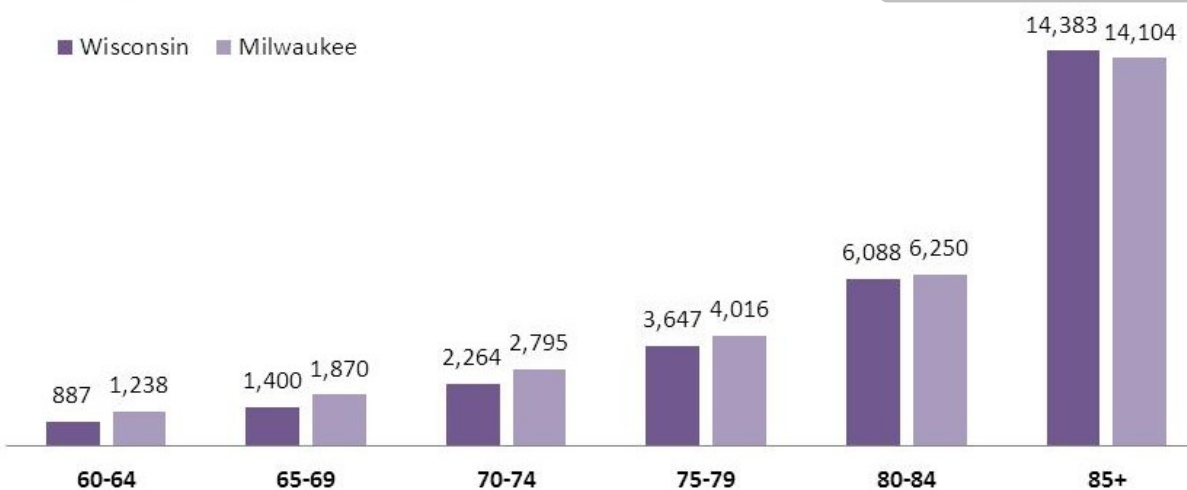
More than 75% of Milwaukee County residents 65 and over report feeling good or very good. This is just slightly less than the state as a whole.

Figure 13

2010 Death Rate (Deaths per 100,000 population) for Age of Death

■ Wisconsin ■ Milwaukee

WISH



Death Rate

Milwaukee County experiences a slightly higher death rate across all age categories except for Wisconsinites 85 years and older.

Report Partnership

The Center for Urban Population Health was enlisted by the Milwaukee County Department on Aging to update The Face of Aging report. This publication chronicles the changes of the aging community of Milwaukee County using secondary data.

In partnership with AARP Wisconsin and the Center for Urban Population Health, Jennifer Sauer, Brittne Nelson, Erin Pinkus and Sibora Gjecovi of AARP State Research and Ed Evans of AARP Research and Strategic Analysis contributed to the charts and maps in this publication where indicated. To learn more about AARP, please visit www.aarp.org.

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Assistance with editing was provided by Milwaukee County Department on Aging staff: Jon Janowski, Program and Policy Coordinator and Diane Beckley, Program Coordinator, who also coordinated the photography for this report.

Facilitation of the partnership and discussions that set the framework for the report was provided by the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute Milwaukee Program (WAI), under the leadership of Gina Green-Harris, Director of Milwaukee Outreach Program. WAI also contributed to the information on Alzheimer's Disease.

This report was prepared by the Center for Urban Population Health. David Frazer, Jessica Rice, Habib Rahentulla, Carrie Stehman, Maddie Lamb and Courtenay Kessler prepared this report. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact them at 414.219.5100.

The Center for Urban Population Health is a partnership among the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Aurora Health Care. The Center has a mission to advance population health research and education to improve the health of urban communities and does this by moving evidence to action with communities. This report is just one example of the type of work the Center does. To learn more about the Center's collaborative work, you can visit www.cuph.org.



To read the full Third Edition of the Face of Aging in Milwaukee County Demographic Report, please visit <http://county.milwaukee.gov/Aging7705.htm>



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The mission of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging is to affirm the dignity and value of older adults of Milwaukee County by supporting their choices for living in, and giving to, our community.

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Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

